



Ontario
Energy
Board | Commission
de l'énergie
de l'Ontario

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2020-0043

NORTH BAY HYDRO DISTRIBUTION LIMITED

**Application for electricity distribution rates and other charges
beginning May 1, 2021**

BEFORE: **Robert Dodds**
 Presiding Commissioner

Lynne Anderson
 Chief Commissioner

October 25, 2021

OVERVIEW

This is a decision of the Ontario Energy Board on cost claims filed with respect to a North Bay Hydro Distribution Limited (North Bay Hydro) proceeding.

North Bay Hydro filed a cost of service application with the OEB seeking approval for changes to the rates that North Bay Hydro charges for electricity distribution, beginning May 1, 2021.

The OEB granted the Consumers Council of Canada (CCC), Mr. Donald D. Rennick, School Energy Coalition (SEC) and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) intervenor status and cost award eligibility.

On September 23, 2021, the OEB issued its Decision and Rate Order, subsequently revised on September 27, 2021, in which it set out the process for intervenors to file their cost claims, for North Bay Hydro to raise any objections to the claims and for intervenors to respond to any objections raised by North Bay Hydro.

The OEB received cost claims from CCC, SEC and VECC. By e-mail, Mr. Rennick indicated that he would not be filing a cost claim. No objection to the cost claims was received from North Bay Hydro.

Findings

The OEB has reviewed the claims filed to ensure that they are compliant with the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

The OEB approves the cost claims as filed, with the exception of SEC. While SEC made submissions on four of the five unsettled issues, the focus was predominately on Operations, Maintenance and Administration (Issue 1.2). The OEB concludes that the 36.8 hours spent on Argument Preparation and 25.6 hours spent on Oral Hearing Preparation on substantively one issue are excessive. Accordingly, the OEB is reducing the claims of 44.3 hours (26.5 hours Argument Preparation and 17.8 hours Oral Hearing Preparation) for Mr. Jay Shepherd and 18.1 hours (10.3 hours Argument Preparation and 7.8 hours Oral Hearing Preparation) for Mr. Fred Zheng, respectively, by 20% each, for a total reduction of 12.5 hours.

The OEB finds that the cost claims of CCC and VECC are reasonable as is the adjusted claim of SEC and each of these cost claims shall be reimbursed by North Bay Hydro.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, North Bay Hydro Distribution Limited shall immediately pay the following amounts to the intervenors for their costs:

• Consumers Council of Canada	\$26,569.13
• School Energy Coalition	\$40,955.72
• Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition	\$29,326.67

DATED at Toronto October 25, 2021

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Christine E. Long
Registrar